

PH0080535

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: ALABAMA	
COUNTY: ST. CLAIR	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Looney House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Looney House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Five miles west of Ashville on the Greensport Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Ashville

STATE Alabama	CODE 01	COUNTY: St. Clair	CODE 115
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. Clair Historical Society, Mrs. Abner Crow, Restoration Chairman

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 276

CITY OR TOWN:
Ashville

STATE: Alabama	CODE 35953	CODE 01
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
St. Clair County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Ashville

STATE: Alabama	CODE 35953	CODE 01
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State

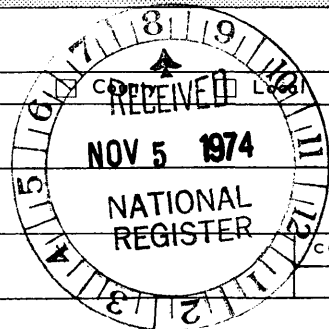
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Looney House is an extremely well constructed log structure which consists of two double-story pens connected by a central breezeway.

Logs are secured at the corners with half dovetail notching and the house rests on piers of native stone. The two end-exterior chimneys are of locally made brick. An unusual feature of construction is the graduated size of the logs; each log is 1/2 inch smaller than the log beneath it.

Rooms are nearly square, measuring 16' 3" by 9' 3". Ceilings are 8' 6" high. Fireplaces are located in the two downstairs rooms.

The western pen contains an entrance door on the south, a window to the right of the fireplace and a door opening onto the breezeway at the ground level. On the second floor there is a window on the front and one of the rear (North elevation) as well as a door leading to the second floor level of the breezeway.

The stairs, which were originally located in the breezeway, have been moved into this half of the building for reasons of security. However, this arrangement was not uncommon in the state.

The eastern pen of the building contains a door to the breezeway, a rear exit and front window. Additionally there are two windows, located one on either side of the fireplace. The upper floor duplicates the upper floor of the western pen.

The sills are cedar and the floors of heart pine. The exposed beams are all intact, but for one room where replacements had to be made. The original beams are handplanned with a bead detail on one corner. The rafters were held by eight-inch pegs and are skinned pine poles, but for a few replacements. Much of the original hardware was salvaged and only one of the batten doors was missing. The roof which for many years had been covered with tin is now of wooden shingles.



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6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<u>Local History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Looney House is possibly the oldest standing two-story, log dogtrot style house in the state. The two pen structure connected by an open breezeway was the most popular type of rural housing in 19th century Alabama and numerous examples remain. However, relatively few of the two-story versions of this structure have survived.

Henry Looney was part of the early wave of settlers who came to the newly created Shelby County (this section later became St. Clair County) in 1818. Like many of the early settlers in the area, Looney and his brother, Jack, served with General Andrew Jackson during the Creek Wars of 1813-1814, and after the war returned from Tennessee with their father's family, slaves and livestock.

Looney and his father, John, constructed the present building in 1818, about one mile distant from the present location. The first site proved to be unhealthy and in 1820, the house was disassembled and moved to its present site on higher ground. Jack Looney also built a house in the same vicinity, but this structure no longer stands.

In 1827, John Looney died, leaving Henry as the head of the household. In 1838, he married Jane Rutherford Ash, the oldest daughter of John Ash, one of the founders of Ashville. Courthouse records show that the Looneys were prominent in the affairs of the young county.

In 1892, the Looney family sold the property of John L. and Sam Houston Lonnergan. The house remained in the Lonnergan family until it was purchased in 1947, by Colonel Joseph R. Creitz. In 1972, Col. Creitz and his wife donated the structure to the St. Clair County Historical Society, which has restored the structure for use as a local historical museum.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashville Courthouse;
 Land track book
 Deed Books 1823
 Will Book 1819 - 1823
 Marriage record 1818 - 1852
 Circuit Court records
 Liberty Cemetery, Odenville, Alabama.

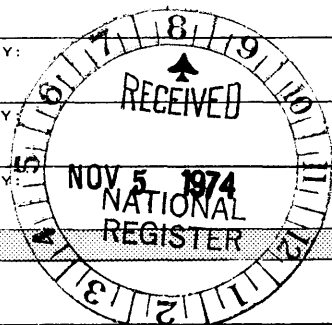
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33	°	49'	12"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86	°	11'	44"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"				
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one and two-thirds acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
 CD

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: Oct. 25, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Phil B. Howard Jr.

Title SHPO Ala.

Date Oct. 30, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AK Woelke
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 31 1974

ATTEST:

W. Warner Floyd
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 31 1974